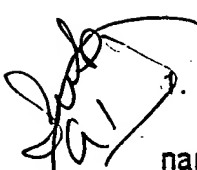


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

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A wood rot preventer for use between two intersecting portions of lumber, namely an upper portion of lumber and a lower portion of lumber, and comprising:  
a elongated protector for attachment over the upper edge of a lower portion of lumber, the protector in turn comprising,  
a web for overlying the upper edge of the portion of lumber;  
side walls for extending partially downward from said web along either side of the lower portion of lumber;  
an upper surface of said web defining a central median strip which is substantially planar and parallel to the upper edge of the lower portion of lumber, and,  
two side strips running along opposite side edges of said central median strip, said side strips having upper surfaces angled downwardly away from the plane of said median strip, wherein said median strip defines a planar contact area for contact with an upper portion of lumber, and said two side strips define wedge shaped spaces below such an overlying portion of lumber, said median strip being narrower than said lower portion of lumber and thus substantially reducing the area of contact with said upper portion of lumber and permitting airflow to take place along said two side strips and said upper portion of lumber;  
said protector side walls defining inner surfaces for contacting the sides of said lower portion of lumber ;

ribs formed along the inner surfaces of said protector side walls for contacting the sides of said lower portion of lumber and for maintaining the remainder of said inner surfaces of said protector side walls out of contact with said lower portion of lumber whereby to permit air circulation between the inner surfaces of said protector side walls and the sides of said lower portion of lumber.

2. A wood rot protector as claimed in claim 1 and including ridges formed along the underside of the protector web for contacting the upper edge of the lower portion of lumber, the ridges defining planar contact load bearing surfaces for transmitting the load of the upper portion of lumber to the upper edge of the lower portion of lumber, whilst at the same time defining air flow passages between the ridges to permit air flow along the upper edge of the lower portion of lumber.

3. A wood rot protector as claimed in claim 2 wherein said protector is formed of resilient thermoplastic material and is dimensioned whereby said side walls make a snug friction fit over the upper edge of the lower portion of lumber.

4. A wood rot protector as claimed in claim 3 wherein said protector is formed by extrusion techniques so that said protectors can be made in extended lengths, at low cost.

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5. A wood rot protector as claimed in claim 1 wherein said protector side walls are formed with a single rib on each side, the ribs having a pointed or hook shape so as to partially bite into the sides of the lumber.

6. A wood rot protector as claimed in claim 5 wherein said side walls have drip edges which are spaced away from contact with the wood thereby causing moisture running down the exterior of the side walls to drip off the side walls clear of the sides of the lumber.

7. A wood rot protector as claimed in claim in claim 1 wherein the inner surface of the web of the protector is formed with parallel grooves, defining load bearing surfaces between the grooves.

8. A wood rot protector as claimed in claim 1 wherein ridges are formed on the inner surface on said inner surface of said web whereby to raise the entire inner surface off the edge of the lumber, and wherein said side strips are formed with inner angled surfaces spaced from the edge of the lumber in non loading relation.

9. A wood rot protector as claimed in claim 1 and further including transverse grooves formed in the upper load bearing surface of the median strip to increase air circulation to the under side of the upper piece of lumber, and to prevent migration of moisture along the median surface.

10. A wood rot protector for use between two intersecting portions of lumber, namely an upper portion of lumber and a lower portion of lumber, and comprising;

a generally planar protector strip, having upper and under sides;

said upper side having a median load bearing surface parallel with the plane of the upper surface of said lower portion of lumber;

and two side edge strips defining upper surfaces angled downwardly away from said median strip, for shedding water outwardly;

said underside of said protector having load bearing means for transferring the load of the upper portion of lumber to the lower portion of lumber;

a plurality of air flow grooves formed in said planar under surface to allow air circulation along the upper surface of the edge of the lower portion of lumber; and,

said side edge strips of the rot protector extending outwardly of the width of said portion of lumber to a width, greater than the actual width of the portion of lumber so as to provide for a drip edge outwardly of the side surfaces of the

portion of lumber, allowing moisture to drip down without penetrating the lumber side surfaces.

11. A wood rot protector as claimed in claim 10 and including transverse grooves formed in the upper load bearing surface of the median strip to increase air circulation to the under side of the upper piece of lumber, and to prevent migration of moisture along the median surface.

12. A wood rot protector for use between two intersecting portions of lumber, namely an upper portion of lumber and a lower portion of lumber, said lower portion having a predetermined width and comprising;

planar strip, having upper and under sides;

said upper side having a median load bearing surface parallel with the plane of the upper surface of said lower portion of lumber;

two side edge strips defining upper surfaces angled downwardly away from said median strip, for shedding water outwardly;

load bearing ridges formed on said under side for transferring load to said lower portion of lumber;

a plurality of air flow grooves formed between load bearing ridges to allow air circulation along the upper surface of the edge of the lower portion of lumber; and,

said side edge strips of said planar rot protector extending outwardly of the width of said portion of lumber to a width greater than the actual width of the portion of lumber so as to provide for a drip edge outwardly of the side surfaces of the portion of lumber, allowing moisture to drip down without penetrating the lumber side surfaces.

13. A wood rot protector as claimed in claim 12 and including transverse grooves formed in the upper load bearing surface of the median strip to increase air circulation to the under side of the upper piece of lumber, and to prevent migration of moisture along the median surface.

